

China demands U.S. apology

DUBAI (R) — China on Saturday demanded a public apology and financial compensation from the United States after an inspection showed a Chinese ship was not carrying banned chemical weapons materials for Iran. The Yinhai was shadowed by the U.S. Navy for more than three weeks and denied entry to Gulf ports because of Washington's charges it was carrying such a cargo. The Chinese side has every reason to demand that the U.S. side apologise in public, compensate its loss and pledge not to create such incident in the future, Chinese Foreign Ministry official Shi Zu Kang said in a statement sent to Reuters. A copy of the inspection report obtained by Reuters said: "The complete inspection of all the containers abroad the Yinhai showed conclusively that the two chemicals thiodiglycol and thionyl chloride were not among the ship's cargo. The U.S. government undertakes to inform the governments of the countries which the Yinhai had been scheduled to call (on) of the results of this inspection and to seek to ensure a smooth entry of the ship into the ports concerned to unload its cargo."

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Colombia seizes U.S. plane packed with dynamite

SAN ANDRES, COLOMBIA, (AFP) — Colombian authorities seized a U.S. plane packed with three tonnes of dynamite bound for Ecuador and arrested two U.S. citizens and a Dutch man on board, officials said Saturday. The C-47 had taken off from Miami, Florida, and had stopped to refuel on Colombia's San Andres Island in the Caribbean when airport inspectors discovered the cargo. The aircraft's final destination was Guayaquil, Ecuador. Local prosecutors are investigating the dynamite shipment.

King extends unequivocal support for Israeli-Palestinian agreement

Arafat has conveyed 'full package' of proposal

Accord begins a process leading to implementation of 242 and is the decision of the sole, legitimate representative of Palestinians

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday extended unequivocal support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho, saying it is a "serious comprehensive attempt" towards achieving just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Describing the agreement as part of a process leading to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, King Hussein said the agreement was "a very serious movement forward."

King Hussein told reporters that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Friday provided him with the full details of the agreement, which the PLO reached with Israel in secret negotiations with the Israeli government in Norway.

"Yesterday I received what I might have expected to receive a little earlier from the Palestinian

leadership and President (Yasser) Arafat: A complete package of all that has been reached so far and in detail," King Hussein told a press conference.

"I believe that what I received suggests to me that it is very serious comprehensive attempt on both sides involved in this negotiation to move forward towards the establishment of a just and durable peace," the King said.

"I've read (the details of the accord) thoroughly and can only say what I said earlier that our position is one of support for the independent Palestinian position and for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the King said.

King Hussein said the Israeli-Palestinian deal cannot be described as a Gaza-Jericho option accord because, based on information he has, it is part of a process leading to the imple-

Arafat appreciates support

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat Saturday warmly welcomed King Hussein's support for the self-rule agreement.

"We highly appreciate the stand of his support announced by His Majesty King Hussein," Mr. Arafat said in a statement reported by the Palestinian news agency WAFA. "This is a vivid expression of the deepness of relations which continue and are reinforced between the two brotherly peoples."

mentation of Resolution 242.

"So I will only reemphasise our full support for the (PLO)," he said.

King Hussein said the Oslo accord does not impose on Jordan any role as initially understood, but invites it to participate in the discussions of issues dealing with the human dimension and other problems, particularly refugees.

And "this is perfectly alright. It is an invitation," King Hussein said.

Jordan initially understood that its role was already agreed upon by the Israelis and the PLO and vehemently rejected "any agreement to which it is not a signatory."

The King, however, said the agreement has changed the "situation" and adjustments in the positions of the Arab parties involved in peace negotiations with Israel will be made.

The first of these adjustments could lead to the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace process, the King said.

He said Jordan provided the Palestinians with an "umbrella" to the peace talks in order to enable them to represent the Palestinian people in negotiating their future.

But "once and when mutual recognition occurs, and I believe this is possible, between the Israelis and the Palestinians, then probably there would be no need for this umbrella to be there."

Jordan, however, will continue to extend the most possible support to the PLO, which the King repeatedly described as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He also said that the joint coordination committee formed by Jordan and the PLO in July will have to be "reshaped" in light of the agreement, which he described as having the foundation to deal with every aspect of the Palestinian problem.

(Continued on page 10)

King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had a telephone conversation Saturday and exchanged views on issues of mutual concern and Arab issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency said "the new developments in Arab issues" were discussed.

King cancels China visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has decided to cancel a trip to China later this month because of developments in the Middle East, a spokesman for the royal palace said on Saturday. The King was to visit China from Sept. 13 to 16 and travel to Thailand and Singapore, the spokesman said.

Crown Prince returns from Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Jordan Saturday evening after a visit to Europe. Prince Hassan was received by their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, and Prince Ali Ben Nayef, as well as Prime Minister Abdol Salam Al Majali, Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawi, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki and other officials.

Al Nahdah gets Cabinet approval

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has given its consent to the publication of a political daily newspaper in Amman under the name Al Nahdah. The new daily, which will be published by the Jordanian Arab Company for Press and Publication and Distribution, will be headed by Mohammad Daoudieh as chief editor.

Arafat expected in Syria soon

DAMASCUS (R) — Yasser Arafat is expected to hold talks in Syria soon on the Palestinians' interim self-rule deal with Israel. Palestinian sources said Saturday. One source said the visit would be "the most important leg in an Arab tour" by Mr. Arafat.

Algeria gets new cabinet

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek Saturday formed an 25-member government after 15 days of political consultations, official sources announced here Saturday.

King: Israel-PLO accord has no bearing on elections, which will be held as scheduled

No government 'deal' with anyone on equal-opportunity polls

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Developments in the Middle East peace process will have no impact on Jordan's plans to hold parliamentary elections on Nov. 8, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

The King was answering a question during a press conference on the possibility of many Palestinians returning to the West Bank in the wake of the recent breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

Many of the Palestinians who fled the West Bank when Israel occupied the territory in the 1967 war are Jordanian nationals and are registered voters.

The question itself seemed to have stemmed from assertions from certain Jordanian "nationalist" parties that they could fare better in the elections if the polls were postponed and held after Palestinians who might want to return to the West Bank did so.

"In regard to elections, there is nothing new at this stage that I can add," said the King.

"Jordanians are members of one family regardless of their origins. We hope that the elections will take place at the appointed time to reflect our determination to preserve and build on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights."

He added: "I hope it will be an example for others. The way it is conducted reflecting also the sense of responsibility of the Jordanian citizen at this stage, in terms of the critical position ... to create something new in their area."

In the same context of the possibility of Palestinians living in Jordan being able to return to the West Bank, the King said it was not clear yet how this issue will be dealt with but affirmed that it was an issue that should be and would be dealt with in the negotiations that are expected to follow the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (see separate story).

PLO Executive Committee member and Information chief Yasser Abd Rabbo said in Tunis Friday that the agreement would allow up to 800,000 refugees who were forced out of the West Bank in 1967 to return home.

But, Israeli leaders, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur rejected the assertion.

"That is not the way I read the text" of the Israel-PLO agreement, Mr. Peres said.

According to Mr. Gur, "it is the worldwide view of the government the right of return is unacceptable in this accord and will not allow any clause permitting

refugees to return and flood Israel."

Informed Palestinian sources said, however, that the PLO was insisting on including a clause in the agreement to make it clear that the issue of the refugees returning home would be tackled soon.

"That is one of the keys to the entire process," said an informed source. "Without that the accord will have a serious flaw."

In a draft of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles, the issue of "refugees" will be dealt with in the "final status" negotiations scheduled to begin in the third year after Palestinian autonomy begins in the occupied territories.

But the PLO leadership, in the face of fierce criticism of the plan from Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, is now seeking to "include some definite reference" that the subject will be discussed sooner than in a peace agreement.

"Enough slogans and talk that does not reflect the true sense of belonging," the King said. "We respect our Constitution in our march that was crystallised through our National Charter and in our concentration on democracy, or shura if you want to call it that, human rights and pluralism, and we all belong to one family regardless of origin."

In a draft of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles, the issue of "refugees" will be dealt with in the "final status" negotiations scheduled to begin in the third year after Palestinian autonomy begins in the occupied territories.

During Saturday's press conference the King laughed away suggestions that the government and the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the dominant Islamist group, had made a "safra" (deal) under which the front had dropped its threat to boycott the elections in protest against the introduction of a one-person, one-vote change to the electoral system.

"Whoever is suggesting that a deal was made has vested interests," said Dr. Arabyat.

"It was our sense of national responsibility and unity that prompted us to decide to participate in the elections inspired of everything ... the change to Election Law and all," Dr. Arabyat told the Jordan Times.

"We are responsible citizens committed to upholding the democratic march, pluralism and higher national interests."

provided they take on Palestinian citizenship.

A Palestinian state does not object that there will also be those other than Muslims and Palestinians living there. Jews can be there too, but they should be part of the Palestinian state and not another," Mr. Hussein said.

Speaking in Hebrew he learned in Israeli prisons where he was held for uprising activities, Mr. Hussein said he had no doubt the autonomy agreement would lead to a state.

"An independent Palestinian state will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and it will be in a confederation with Jordan," Mr. Hussein said.

Palestinian and Israeli proponents and opponents of the accord also staged demonstrations Saturday.

Some 300 Palestinians staged a protest, firing shots into the air and later hurling grenades at an army patrol, Palestinians said.

He assured the 120,000 Jewish settlers living in the occupied territories that they could stay,

supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Some of the protesters are wanted by Israel's domestic intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, the Palestinian sources said.

Some 1,500 Palestinians in the West Bank refugee camp of Kalandia rallied in support of the autonomy agreement.

Opposition to the agreement appeared most intense in the impoverished Gaza Strip, a stronghold of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

In Gaza City, Hamas graffiti near a mosque read Saturday: "Anyone from the Palestinian delegation who agrees with Gaza and Jericho will be killed by us like Sadat."

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel, was gunned down by Islamic militants.

Leaders of Israel's Hawishah

(Continued on page 10)

Jordan, Austria discuss peace process, relations

King honours President Klestil with medal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Austrian President Thomas Klestil Saturday discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and Jordanian-Austrian relations in all aspects, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Both leaders expressed keen interest and concern to ensure that the 22-month-old Middle East peace process comes to fruition, the agency said.

The King paid tribute to Austria's role in the international scene, particularly in defending human rights. Vienna hosted the first international forum on human rights in several decades in June this year.

King Hussein conferred upon President Klestil upon his arrival here on a two-day state visit (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Austrian President Thomas Klestil upon his arrival here on a two-day state visit (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

accompanying him at a dinner hosted by the King and attended by senior officials.

President Klestil was received upon arrival by King

Hussein. The two-day visit aims at enhancing relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, Petra said.

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat announced here Saturday that he won the support of his top aides for his controversial accord with Israel for limited Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Arafat told a press conference that he "obtained the backing of the Central Committee of the PLO," the main PLO faction, for the accord on autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

He said he would now submit the accord to the Palestine Central Council (PCC), which groups all the guerrilla movements including those opposed to the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat has been subjected to fierce criticism by PLO officials who object to his secret dealings with Israel behind their backs and the terms of the Gaza-Jericho plan.

They claim he has made too many concessions to Israel with no guarantee that the West Bank and Gaza will eventually become an independent state.

PLO sources said that another meeting involved some heated exchanges, Palestinian sources reported.

One of Mr. Arafat's senior aides, Bassam Abu Sharif, sought to gloss over that. He told the AP: "The chairman has emerged victorious despite some objections, but the majority of the members endorsed his plan and voted for his policy on the peace talks."

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ms. Dayan advised in a telephone call to Tunis Friday night that attacks by Palestinian extremists might be imminent.

Security around Mr. Arafat and his top aides was visibly tightened Saturday after death threats from extremists opposed to any dealings with Israel.

PLO sources said that another meeting had been relayed by Israeli parliament member Yael Dayan, daughter of Israeli war hero Gen. Moshe Dayan and who has visited Mr. Arafat twice this year in Tunis.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ms. Dayan advised in a telephone call to Tunis Friday night that attacks by Palestinian extremists might be imminent.

"That could take some time," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announced in Tunis Saturday that he won the support of his top aides for the accord (see separate story).

Peres said on Friday that agreements for self-rule and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO were separate issues that did not require simultaneous signing.

Asked in Tunis about Israeli-PLO recognition, Mr. Yasser Arafat said on Saturday: "This is now under discussion and I think two letters will be exchanged: 'Asked when, he replied: 'Very soon.'

Hassan Asfour, a PLO official involved in secret talks with Israel, has said the self-rule deal would not be signed until Israel recognised the PLO.

Israel said on Friday it would prefer to sign the peace agreement with the PLO rather than with the organisation's surrogates at the Middle East talks in Washington.

An Egyptian newspaper said the PLO and Israel will announce they recognise each other next week.

Mr. Arafat "will in the middle of next week hold a press conference in Cairo or Tunis in which

Middle East News

Gulf states likely to join aid package for autonomy deal

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are expected to contribute to international aid aimed at boosting a Palestinian autonomy accord, although they are at odds with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), diplomats said Friday.

"I think Gulf states will join other countries in providing aid to Palestinians despite their rift with the PLO," a Western diplomat said.

Despite economic problems caused by low oil prices, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states would likely want to play a role in fostering peace in the Middle East, a Gulf-based diplomat said.

"By doing this, they are contributing to consolidating peace in the Middle East and I believe they want to play this role. They know they are not paying to (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat because the assistance is expected to be supervised by international parties."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — fell out with Arafat in 1990 after they accused him of siding with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war.

A half of their aid to the PLO

caused the worst financial crisis in the group's 29-year existence and created a crack in its ranks, with its leaders accused of manipulation and mismanagement.

GCC states were the main financial backers of the PLO before the Gulf war, extending more than \$2 billion, in addition to billions of dollars in private aid and a five per cent tax on Palestinians working in member states.

The report, a summary of which was released Thursday, said the situation worsened by the recent Israeli blockade of the occupied territories and it warned of an economic collapse.

The report was drawn up by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and two other key Arab League organisations.

The report gave no figures but a recent AMF study said all but the farming sector in the occupied territories have declined since 1975.

"Gulf states are party to the Middle East peace negotiations as they participate in multilateral talks," a diplomatic source said.

"Their financial support is of great significance for a sustainable peace in the region. It is clear the recent escalation in Gaza and other areas is not only because of the Israeli occupation but because of deteriorating economic conditions."

According to the annual 1993

Arab economic report, the economy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to decline because of the 25-year-old Israeli occupation and the Palestinian uprising.

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A closer look at the PLO Charter

WASHINGTON (R) — The Palestinian National Charter, which Israel demands must be revoked before it will recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) repeatedly denies Israel's right to exist.

The 33-article charter demands the total liberation of the entire area of British mandate Palestine, the bulk of which was declared as the state of Israel in 1948 and the rest occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

It was passed in July 1968 by the Palestine National Council, a parliament in exile that is the PLO's highest decision-making body. Key provisions include:

1. Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinian Arab people; it is an indivisible part of the Arab Homeland, and the Palestinian people are an integral part of the Arab Nation.

2. Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit.

3. The Palestinian Arab people possess the legal right to their homeland and have the right to determine their destiny after achieving the liberation of their country in accordance with their wishes and entirely of their own accord and will.

9. Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine ...

10. Commando action constitutes the nucleus of the Palesti-

nian popular liberation war ...

19. The partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the state of Israel are entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time, because they were contrary to the will of the Palestinian people and to their natural right in their homeland, and inconsistent with the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the right to self-determination.

20. The Balfour Declaration, the mandate for Palestine and everything that has been based upon them, are deemed null and void. Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong.

21. The Palestinian Arab people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine and reject all proposals aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian problem or its internationalisation.

22. Zionism is a political movement organically associated with internationally imperialism and antagonistic to all action for liberation and to progressive movements in the world. It is racist and fanatic in its nature,

amended save by a majority of two thirds of the total membership of the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a special session convened for that purpose.

Palestinians say it would take weeks to assemble the 600 members of the PNC, and fierce opposition to the self-rule deal means nobody can guarantee that PLO leader Yasser Arafat would win the two-thirds majority.

But an Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose fragile coalition government also faces determined opposition from the right-wing Likud, needed iron proof that the PLO accepted the Jewish state.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday a Palestinian self-rule accord for the occupied territories and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO were separate issues, not

Israel negotiations that produced the self-rule plan.

"There is no mention of a Palestinian commitment to cease terrorism and the uprising, which has spilled over into Israel in the past," said Mr. Peres.

Both PLO Chair in a Yasser Arafat and his Paris representative, Laila Shabani, recently said Palestinians retained the right to attack Israeli soldiers as long as Israeli forces stayed on Palestinian land, he noted.

The PLO gave ammunition to right-wing leaders who have been calling for a new election to approve the plan that could give the PLO control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho by year's end.

Yigal Carmon, adviser to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, contended "it was a mistake" for Mr. Rabin to exclude army commanders from the nine months of PLO-

A. A. K. asked.

He said it was unclear if Israeli forces would have to



SUSPECTS ON TRIAL: Suspects charged with books and "Islam is the best" banners at the start of their trial Saturday (see page 10) in a military court outside Cairo (AFP photo)

Norway wins Israel, PLO trust after strained ties

OSLO (R) — Norway won the trust of both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to broker a peace accord in deepest secrecy, leaving behind a history of sometimes strained relations between Oslo and the two sides.

Norway sold Israel 21 tonnes of heavy water in 1959 and has doubted it was used only for the peaceful purposes specified in the original contract. In a face-saving deal, Israel sent back some heavy water to compensate, but Oslo still does not know what happened with its original shipment.

— October 1991: Norway's chief of intelligence resigned after admitting he allowed Israeli Mossad agents to attend interviews with Palestinians seeking asylum in Norway.

Israel and PLO officials have praised Oslo as an honest broker in at least 14 rounds of secret talks this year in Norway on Palestinians' self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Norway says any historic strains are things of the past.

"We have no bilateral questions outstanding in our relations," foreign ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnæs said.

Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst said Norway won the trust of both Palestinians and Israelis after a Norwegian study of living conditions in Israel's occupied territories launched in the late 1980s.

"It was important to all sides that Norway was both a NATO country, close to the United States and an applicant to join the European Community," he told a news conference on Monday to announce the secret contacts.

Also, Norway's ruling Labour Party and Israel's governing labour party have long had close ties, and Norway has no strategic interests in the Middle East.

The following are the more thorny incidents in Norway's ties with Israel and the PLO:

— December 1991: Israel sent Norway a shipment of heavy water, used to control temperatures in nuclear reactors, to calm

Norwegian fears that it may have helped Israel to develop nuclear weapons.

Norway sold Israel 21 tonnes of heavy water in 1959 and has doubted it was used only for the peaceful purposes specified in the original contract. In a face-saving deal, Israel sent back some heavy water to compensate, but Oslo still does not know what happened with its original shipment.

— October 1991: Norway's chief of intelligence resigned after admitting he allowed Israeli Mossad agents to attend interviews with Palestinians seeking asylum in Norway.

The police gave the Israeli Norwegians passports to hide their identity. The Israelis often asked questions in Arabic that the Norwegian police could not understand.

— March 1990: After Norway's Labour Party lost power at the polls, a strongly pro-Israel centre-right government briefly ruled for a year.

Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, a ordained Lutheran priest, upset Arabs by saying in a newspaper interview that he believed "God has his hand with Israel's people so that he will protect their right to land."

— July 1973: An Israeli hit-squad shot dead a Moroccan waiter in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer, mistaking him for an agent of an Arab guerrilla group that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Five people were jailed after the attack, but there were wide suspicions that the Israeli ring-leaders went free.

— Mr. Holst held fresh discussions on Saturday with his Israeli counterpart in Paris, a Norwegian official said.

'Demjanjuk a victim of fraud'

CINCINNATI (R) — John Demjanjuk was a victim of bungling and outright fraud by U.S. government prosecutors, lawyers for the accused Nazi guard told a court on Friday.

"The investigation is fundamentally flawed," Michael Tigar told a three-judge federal appeals court panel, saying Mr. Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship should be restored and his extradition to Israel rescinded.

"Who pays? We say that Mr. Demjanjuk should not pay... the person who said justice should be blind didn't say the department of justice should be blind," he added.

But Justice Department lawyer Patty Stemer urged the court to accept the findings of a special investigation which concluded earlier this year that there was no deliberate fraud in Mr. Demjanjuk's prosecution.

She said information that might have been helpful to the 73-year-old former autoworker from Cleveland appears that way in hindsight but was not viewed that way at the time.

The judges — some of whom also appeared critical of the government during the hearing — took the case under advisement and will rule at an unspecified later date.

At issue is whether the Justice Department had information in its files during Mr. Demjanjuk's prosecution that indicated he might have been the victim of mistaken identity.

He was stripped of his citizenship in 1981 and extradited to Israel in 1986 to stand trial as "Ivan the terrible," a guard at Treblinka where thousands of people were gassed.

He was convicted and sentenced to die in Israel but that country's supreme court overturned his conviction last month, saying he was not "Ivan." He is still being held in Israel on the question of whether he should be prosecuted for possibly being a guard at other camps.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk says he was a prisoner of the Germans during the war and was not a guard at any Death camp.

Chief Judge Gilbert Merritt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, opened Friday's hearing by saying the court does not question the Justice Department's aim, but its means.

"The end sought by the office of special investigations — to bring those responsible to justice — is a worthy end... but in a just society we cannot allow evil or unjust means to defeat noble ends. In our law each step must itself be just."

Pierce Lively, another judge on the panel, criticised the fact that a report from another case that might have been helpful to Mr. Demjanjuk's defence never made it into his file.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rushdie caricature winners announced

NICOSIA (AP) — Three winners of a Salman Rushdie caricature competition in Iran are to receive a pilgrimage to Mecca, 16 gold coins and a diploma. Two Iranians and a Pakistani were the top three winners who received their prizes Wednesday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the international competition, sponsored by a local newspaper group, drew works from 1,661 Iranian and foreign caricaturists. It did not give descriptions of the winning entries. In February 1989, Iran declared that Mr. Rushdie, an Indian born British writer, should be killed for defaming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard ever since.

Israel okays return of Mubarak Awad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian, who was expelled to the United States in 1988, will be allowed back next week to attend an Israeli-Palestinian conference, officials said on Friday. Mubarak Awad, 50, who holds U.S. nationality, was expelled from his home in East Jerusalem for having launched a civil disobedience campaign in the occupied territories at the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987. His return was approved by the "highest Israeli authorities" following a recommendation by the justice ministry "because of the latest developments in the region," an Israeli official said. Mr. Mubarak, an advocate of non-violence, is expected to attend a conference on human rights in the occupied territories, according to state television.

Europe in exercises against Iranian submarines

MANAMA (AFP) — A U.S. attack submarine and allied warships have completed exercises aimed at hunting and destroying Iranian submarines in the Gulf. The U.S. Navy's top officer in the Middle East said Saturday. The fast-attack submarine Pasadena conducted manoeuvres with U.S., British and French warships in the Gulf from Wednesday to Friday. Vice Admiral Douglas Katz said in a statement from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. "By improving our skills in locating and attacking submarines in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, we can further our ability to counter a growing concern in the region — Iran's Kilo submarines," he said. Iran has taken delivery so far of two Kilo-class submarines from Russia, one in November last year and another in August, and is to acquire a third soon.

Ruling postponed on appeal by British couple

SHARJAH (R) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court put off for a day on Saturday its decision on an appeal by a British couple against a one-year prison sentence for cohabitation, their lawyer said. The court was originally due to rule on Saturday on the appeal by Peter Wade and Yvonne Campbell who were released on bail last month pending judgement but their lawyer, Hafez Tahboub, said the ruling had been postponed to Sunday. Ms. Campbell's divorce from her husband and Kenneth, who complained to the authorities in April that she was living illegally with Mr. Wade, has meanwhile been completed. Mr. Wade told Reuters, Ms. Campbell, 27, has been described by British newspapers as Mr. Wade's common-law wife. Mr. Tahboub said earlier Mr. Wade, 48, was a friend who invited her and her children to stay when her husband left and refused to pay rent for their house. Cohabitation is illegal under strict Islamic laws enforced in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates.

Egyptian gunmen kill court official

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen killed a Christian court summoner in a southern Egypt stronghold of Muslim militants fighting to overthrow the government, security sources said Saturday. They said unidentified gunmen shot and killed Sami Shahid Mounis, 35, who also ran an electrical appliance store, in his shop in Dayrat 280 kilometres south of Cairo on Friday night. Mr. Mounis was shot and wounded a few years ago in an attack said to have been caused by his relations with women. Police suspect that the militant Al-Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) mounted the latest attack for the same reason. Militant-related violence in Egypt has killed more than 180 people including Christians, police and tourists in the past 18 months. Militants have been killed in police raids or executed after trial in military courts.

Direct Aden-London flights to resume

ADEN (R) — Direct flights between London and Aden are to be resumed next month for the first time since the southern half of Yemen gained independence from Britain 25 years ago, officials said Saturday. They said the Yemeni state airline Aleyamda would start one weekly flight to London's Gatwick airport on Oct. 17 and British Airways would stop off in Aden on its twice weekly flights to the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Cypriot minister to push EC application

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot Foreign Minister Alecos Michalides flies Sunday to Brussels, his first stop on a nine-day tour of eight European Community (EC) capitals to press the island's application for EC membership. The European Commission said in June that Cyprus fulfilled requirements for entry but must find a political settlement before formal entry talks begin. The EC Council of Ministers is expected to discuss the commission's opinion on Cyprus' application next month. Mr. Michalides told a news conference on Saturday that Cyprus would ask the Council of Ministers to take a decision to begin preliminary talks on preparing Cyprus for membership.

Indian prime minister to visit Iran

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is to visit Iran this month for talks aimed at strengthening economic and political ties between the two countries, officials said Saturday. Mr. Rao's three-day trip to Tehran beginning Sept. 21 is the first visit to Iran by an Indian prime minister in a decade. Talks between Mr. Rao and Iranian leaders will focus on expanding trade between the two countries in line with agreements reached at a joint forum of Indian and Iranian business representatives, the officials said. "Both India and Iran are satisfied with the Indo-Iranian Commission in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture and transportation," an official said.

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University, JPMC to survey north for phosphate

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Centre for Consultations and Technical Services (CCTS) at the University of Jordan Saturday signed a contract worth more than JD 50,000 with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) to conduct surveys and studies on phosphate in Jordan.

Under the terms of the contract the CCTSS will study prospects of mining phosphate in the north and will improve the electric power system supplying the Al Hassa and Wadi Abiad phosphate mines.

The survey of the north is to take one year and cost JD 10,000; the power improvement project should be completed in six months at a cost of JD 10,750.

The agreement also provides for the centre to conduct studies on the soil under the storage facilities containing phosphoric acid at the Industrial Complex in Aqaba within 18 to 20 months at a cost of JD 21,500 and a study on planting forests between the residential areas near Al Hassa Phosphate Mine and the main highway nearby. The land study will take one year and will cost JD 8,390. JPMC Director General Thabet Al Taher and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharibeh signed the contract at the JPMC headquarters in Amman.

Following the signing ceremony Mr. Taher said that the



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharibeh (third from left) and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Director General Thabet Al Taher, Saturday, sign a contract to survey and study phosphates in Jordan (Petra photo)

company was eager to enlist skilled Jordanians in its drive to boost phosphate production in Jordan. He said he hoped that the company and the university will find additional areas for mutual cooperation in the future.

The JPMC currently produces mines phosphate from Al Abiad, Al Hassa and Shiddeh mines in

the south of Jordan, according to JPMC Deputy Director Ishaq Jallad.

Mr. Jallad told the Jordan Times that phosphate does exist in the north near Deir Abu Saeed, adding that the agreement with the CCTSS provide for cooperation between the company and

the centre to determine the quality and quantity present and whether it is commercially viable or not.

He said the study of the phosphate in the north will be conducted jointly by the centre's specialists and engineers employed by the JPMC.

2 of 49 cases are diagnosed as typhoid

AMMAN (Petra) — Only two cases out of 49 admitted to hospital in Ajloun last week for treatment were diagnosed as typhoid, Health Minister Abdin Rahim Malhas announced Saturday.

The 49 patients admitted to Al Emad Hospital in Ajloun were complaining of high fever, but tests and cultures conducted on the urine, stool and blood of these patients proved to be normal fever cases, not typhoid, said the minister.

In addition, the Health De-

partment conducted tests on samples of food and beverages taken from street vendors and tested samples of water taken from different sources to determine the cause of the fever that affected Ajloun citizens, including many children, Dr. Malhas said.

He added that the fever could arise from different causes and not necessarily typhoid.

The tests have proved that the water of the local springs was quite safe and potable and

free of typhoid microbes and this is a very reassuring result," said the minister adding that the ministry was maintaining strict surveillance over the situation.

He said 19 patients have been discharged from hospital after receiving the necessary medication; the others are expected to leave hospital in the coming two days.

The ministry of health, said Dr. Malhas, was keen on informing the public about the facts of the health situation.

He said the ministry would seek to prevent groundwater pollution.

During the lecture, Mr. Alawneh also stressed the need to plant in order to expand the green area in Jordan. To preserve land for that purpose, he proposed that building should be restricted to rocky and billy areas and should extend eastwards instead of westwards where the fertile areas abound.

Mr. Alawneh's policies during his tenure as minister of agriculture in the government of Tabeer Al Masri in 1992 drew controversy. His decision to allow cattle to graze in forests was widely criticised at the time.

Mr. Alawneh explained to the Jordan Times later that imported hybrid seeds, which brought disease from their origin, should be banned. He suggested that crop rotation could solve part of the problem as disease would have no vital environment in which to spread. Thus, less quantities of pesticides and insecticides, he said, would be required.

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Jordan Times

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Ending the speculation

IN THE FRENZY to complete the circle of drama that surrounded Arab opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli accord of Aug. 20, the world media zeroed in on Jordan. Jordan's disquiet over the way the secret agreement was reached was blown out of proportion. The declared Jordanian intention not to accept any articles involving Jordan in the accord without its agreement was interpreted as total rejection of the Oslo agreement. Dissatisfaction over the lack of explicit solution to the Jerusalem issue was used to infer that Jordan was questioning the credibility of the PLO leadership.

Jordanian newspapers somehow fell into the trap of the frenzied media reaction to the accord, with many columnists going too far in depicting Jordan's reservations as some sort of lasting estrangement from the PLO leadership. One Arabic daily was even reluctant to headline the story in which His Majesty King Hussein endorsed the agreement with the words he used to bless it.

Being fully aware of the intention of those forces that do not wish well for the Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the King yesterday sought to put an end, once and for all, to all attempts to fishing in the murky waters. He dotted the Is and crossed the Ts by fully endorsing the accord, describing it as "a very serious, comprehensive attempt on both sides involved in the negotiations to move forward towards the establishment of a just and durable peace." The King said that after he received the full details of the agreement from the PLO leadership, Jordan's position remains one of "support to the independent Palestinian position and to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

True the King revealed that he was hurt by the manner by which Jordan was kept unaware of the secret talks and the details of the accord; and he probably still has some reservations about the agreement. But His Majesty made it crystal clear that Jordanians and Palestinians were in the same boat and that, no matter what happens in the short term, they will continue to have an intertwined future and destiny. His was a masterful political act and his wisdom and courage could not be overlooked by Jordanians or Palestinians or anyone in the Arab World who is genuinely concerned about the interests of the Arab Nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said Saturday that the PLO has all the right to negotiate with Israel and with other parties in the course of achieving the aspirations of the Palestinian people's objectives. All the other Arab parties to the peace negotiations also have the right to negotiate with the Israelis to ensure the return of their usurped rights and lands, said the paper. All is fair if the negotiations are based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, on which the peace process which started in Madrid is founded, the paper added. The paper said that Jordan had taken a decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank for the sole purpose of giving the Palestinians the right to pursue efforts towards regaining their rights and their homeland. Since the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as endorsed by the Rabat Summit, it has the right to negotiate for the Palestinians and regain their lost lands and rights, continued the daily. For this reason, Jordan has voiced its backing to the PLO for its efforts to regain these rights and for ensuring an end to occupation, said the paper. Due to the special relationship between the Jordanians and the Palestinians, Amman can only voice its blessings to any deal accepted by the PLO and the Palestinian people, added the daily. But the paper said that more coordination between the Jordanians and the Palestinians ought to take place and there is real need for an Arab summit meeting to give an overall approval to the steps taken by the Palestinians to ensure their rights and future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday backed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but noted that Jordan has the right to take measures that would prevent any move that could endanger its own security as a result of that particular agreement. Fahd Al Fanek said that since Jordan and the other Arab states had given the PLO the right to be the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, they all have to bless the organization's agreements with Israel. No Arab party has the right to interfere in the PLO's decisions as no Arab party defended the Palestinians in the face of the massacres and the aggression they had been facing in Lebanon and Palestine, stressed the writer. The text of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement reveals that the PLO has secured Israel's recognition of the organization and provided a programme for autonomy rule and the other benefits targeted at the start of the Madrid peace conference, he pointed out. It is easy for those Palestinians living in the rich districts of Amman to voice their opposition to the agreement, because they have not suffered from Israeli occupation rule nor are they harmed by the Israeli presence in Palestine, said Fanek. All that Jordan can do now is to bless the agreement, but it also has the right to take appropriate measures to protect its own interests.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Why should Jordan worry?

THE FACT that the PLO did not consult with Jordan before striking a deal with Israel is bad, but not harmful in itself. Mr. Arafat will make up for this with more hugs and kisses. The questions, therefore, are: Why should Jordan worry about the Gaza-Jericho deal, what are the possible risks for its own security and finally, what are the Jordanian options towards these risks?

Jordan should have at least three areas to worry about and, hopefully, to do something to minimise the risk or prevent the damages. The first is demography, the second is economy, while the third is security.

The full details of the PLO-Israeli accords are not yet made public. We in Jordan have no alternative but to depend solely on Israeli sources, which are not dependable nor known for their accuracy. There was also a mention of confidential annexes related to security and other matters which complicate things further. Therefore, it is quite possible that other risks do exist and we are not even aware of them.

As facts stand now, Jordan should worry about a potential transfer of population from Gaza Strip to Jordan via Jericho. The Gazans will, of course, have the right to move to Jericho, which may serve as a waiting point or a station for crossing into Jordan over the bridges.

Jordan should also worry about the consequences of a Palestinian economy that is fully open to Israel. The continued activities at the bridges mean an implied access for the Israeli industry to Jordan's market without official normalisation of relations or waiting for an acceptable peace treaty. If Jordan ends its boycott against Israel, and grants the Jewish state an effective channel to the vast Arab markets, Israel will find no reason to make any concessions to Jordan in their bilateral negotiations in Washington.

To that we add the possible civil strife that may erupt between supporters of the PLO and its opponents in the occupied territories, which may spill over into Jordan, threatening in the

process its internal security and national unity.

What should be done?

The whole problem lies in the "open bridges" policy that Jordan had adopted long ago under emotional pressure to help Palestinians under occupation and facilitate their lives. Now that the circumstances are expected to be altered drastically, Jordan should close the bridges until such time when the nature of the agreement becomes known, especially if Israel continues to control the bridges and dictate who and what is allowed to cross in which direction.

If the bridges continue to operate under Israeli supervision, the results should be known in advance. People will be encouraged to cross the bridges eastwards, while returning westwards would remain extremely difficult and subject to documentation and time limitation. The bridges will be used to evacuate Gaza and West Bank gradually, at the expense of Jordan.

On the economic side, the Israelis are operating the bridges in a manner that allows products and commodities to cross the bridges eastwards but does not allow Jordanian products to enter the West Bank and Israel. The occupied territories have thus been used as a captive market for Israeli industry and output.

Closing the bridges will protect Jordan demographically and will protect the Jordanian economy from the unfair competition posed by an Israeli economy which is heavily subsidised, up to \$6 billion a year; it will also serve as a signal that Jordan cannot be taken for granted by any party and that its worries must be addressed and taken into account.

Would the Jordanian government act responsibly and decisively and close the bridges immediately? This is a big question which will not be answered, perhaps, for days or weeks. It is a question that could test the government's capability in meeting real challenges.

Revive observance of humanitarian law

By Cornelio Sommaruga

GENEVA — When the cold war finally came to an end, many of us believed that this was the 20th century's best moment for constructing a durable world peace. The United Nations would at least be able to implement its mandate, based on universally recognised values laid down in international law.

Disputes, rather than being fought out in trenches or in the air, would be referred to the World Court. Armed forces would be deployed only to enforce the decisions of the U.N. Security Council. National armed forces would be progressively reduced to the minimum necessary for assuring internal order.

I have not given up hope that such a state of affairs is realisable. Despite all the setbacks, many important steps have been taken in the last three years to strengthen the authority of both the Security Council and international law and to build up the peacekeeping and peace-enforcing powers of the United Nations.

Nevertheless, it is impossible from my vantage point not to be all but overwhelmed by the carnage that has been unleashed in various corners of the globe in recent years.

I respect the findings of the Stockholm International Peace Institute, which reports that the number of major conflicts has decreased year by year in the last five years. Yet while accepting this welcome news I am struck by a degree of savagery unleashed that neither I nor my colleagues in the field have witnessed before.

Perhaps it is because both we and the media have more access to the eye of the storm than previous generations had. That is part of it.

But we are also convinced that the practice of war has undergone a change for the worse. Civilian populations are becoming with ever greater frequency the hostages of warlords and the primary target of their opponents. We also observe a marked increase in sexual violence, directed in particular against women and children.

In too many places, as the clamps of the cold war era have been removed, authority, for all its failings a stabilising force, has been replaced by anarchy. The control of weapons is no longer in responsible hands, instead we see very sophisticated weapons being deployed by people who are often no more than clan leaders, factional figures or upstart warlords whose only claim to the charisma of leadership is the ruthlessness with which they wield the gun.

At least at the time of the Vietnam war we knew who was saying "no" to us. Now there is often nobody who can make a firm decision, and a "yes" can become a "no" in the flick of an eyelash.

A promise for the safe passage of our relief workers is broken with haphazard regularity. Our emblem is ignored, mocked and shot at. We have lost 15 of our field staff in the last year.

It is for these reasons that we asked the Swiss government, as depositary of the Geneva conventions, to call the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, to be held starting on Monday in Geneva.

Every member country of the United Nations has been invited, together with observers ranging from the U.N. secretary-general's office to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the PLO to Amnesty International.

Our aim is nothing less than reactivation of the observance of international humanitarian law.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the initiator of the Geneva conventions, has been charged by those members of the world community who are signatories with monitoring the application of its articles.

We intend at this conference to discharge this obligation with a renewed fervor and to persuade those countries in particular those influential members of the Security Council, the United States, France and Britain, which have not yet ratified the additional Protocols I and II adopted in 1977, widening the Geneva conventions to further protect civilians — to do so speedily.

In particular, we are asking

participants to make a public commitment to end the massacre of civilians, summary executions, systematic torture of detainees, inhuman conditions of detention, the starvation or forced displacement of populations, indiscriminate use of arms, the plundering of humanitarian aid and the murder of personnel working under the emblems of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

This means all countries and all

peoples taking seriously the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols, which means incorporating their obligations into military instruction and school curricula.

It means punishing war criminals and restricting the arms trade from which so much money is made at the expense of the control of war.

It also means resolving to separate more clearly humanitarian aid from other political and military goals, including peacekeeping.

It means tightening the international restrictions on the use of those conventional weapons that cause excessive damage to life and limb.

Finally, it means recognising the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, established in principle in 1977 but not deployed as foreseen to investigate allegations of violations of the Geneva conventions and the additional protocols.

International humanitarian law exists to help save mankind from the scourge of war. All of us, wherever we are, need it to work as intended. Negligence, ignorance and bestiality are its enemies. In Geneva, as the shadow of war lies once again across mankind's path to progress, we must resolve to treat this profound body of law more seriously.

The writer is president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

This means all countries and all

The heartening assertion of the Semitic centre

By Rami G. Khouri

This article is reprinted from the Sept. 3, 1993, issue of the New York Times.

The Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles for peace leading to initial Palestinian self-government in Gaza-Jericho is a historic breakthrough that deserves widespread support. Flawed, secretive, partial and vague as it may be, the agreement represents a heartening historical dynamic that the Middle East has not witnessed since the Zionist/Arab nationalist conflict started nearly a century ago: the self-confident assertion of the rational and humanistic Semitic political centre in a region that has long been dominated by emotionalism, maximalism, militarism and fear.

The centrist forces of Semitic composure and realism — represented by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and the Labour-led Israeli leadership — have taken an enormous, daring gamble for peace. They enjoy the support of the majority of their peoples, but they have to move decisively to translate their daring hope into a stable peace that future generations of Arabs and Israelis can live with.

To many of us in this region, the accord's self-evident vagueness and weaknesses are compellingly outweighed by its positive elements.

It enshrines PLO-Israeli joint recognition, it allows Palestinians and Israelis to envisage peaceful coexistence in two adjacent national entities, it confirms both sides' acceptance of a

... peaceful resolution to the Middle East's gruesome cycle of death and destruction..."

The burden is on the PLO, also, to address valid Palestinian/Arab concerns about the potentially serious regional consequences of the agreement, vis-a-vis issues such as Jerusalem, refugee flows, economic investment patterns, pressures on fragile land and water resources, political extremism, military security, the status of Palestinians in Arab countries, and the residual impact on the diplomatic role and political importance of existing Arab states.

If centrist Palestinians and Israelis are to overcome the often violent religious and secular opposition they face from the right and left, they must act quickly, openly and decisively. They should exert all possible efforts to assure that Israel's speedy military redeployment and transfer of authority to Palestinians achieve three key results:

1. real improvement in the socio-economic conditions and quality of life of Palestinians in Palestine and a sense of hope and dignity for diaspora Palestinians;

2. ironclad confirmation that Gaza-Jericho is only the initial phase of a larger diplomatic dynamic that will restore Palestinian national rights and return Israeli-occupied lands to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan; and

3. a sense for Israelis that they can live in peace and security in the Middle East because they, in turn, have finally accepted the national reality and rights of the Palestinians.

plan to offer to stop the bloodshed.

But Croatian President Franjo Tuđman, in a fury as he left the talks, said it may take "weeks or even months" before a new round of negotiations is held. Meanwhile, Croatia has increased the number of regular army troops in southern and central Bosnia, according to reliable military sources.

U.N. officials have warned of a high death toll in Bosnia this winter.

Aid officials had predicted

400,000 deaths last winter, but that was averted by abnormally mild weather. This year, however, there are few food stockpiles and much less shelter.

There are also mounting fears

that Croatia may kick out hundreds of thousands of Muslim

refugees who fled from Bosnia during the war.

If the war continues into the winter there is going to be a disaster," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Collapse of talks spells trouble for Bosnians

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

"Either we get a viable state, or no deal."

A glance at the map that was tabled shows that the proposed Muslim state was largely dictated by Serb military gains. The landlocked region would entirely depend on hostile Serbs and Croats who would control Muslim lifelines to the Adriatic Sea and the Sava River.

The capital of Sarajevo, instead of belonging to the Muslims, would be placed under United Nations protection. Muslims also would lose the strategic southern town of Mostar to the Serbs.

Bosnian Serb and Croat leaders, the winners in the 17-month war, rejected Muslim demands for an additional 4 per cent more land and access to the sea. Mediators had proposed giving Muslims 31 per cent, Serbs 32 per cent and Croats 17 per cent.

In unusually stiff terms, Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Thursday on Serbia and Croatia, which back their ethnic brethren in Bosnia, to grant the Muslims more land. He also said the Serb and Croat negotiators in Geneva should "show greater flexibility."

The Croats' refusal to give Muslims a piece of land on the Adriatic Sea was the prime cause of the collapse of the talks.

The Serbs in fact made a painful concession by offering a land corridor to link up Muslim enclaves in Serb-controlled eastern Bosnia. Mr. Izetbegovic said this was not enough and also wanted more land in northeastern Bosnia.

European Community mediator Lord Owen warned that "fragmentation, anarchy, warlords and chaos is not that far away" and said the international community had no alternative

to offer to stop the bloodshed.

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4

Egyptian painter exhibits work

Talent and hard work bring back a golden, old era

By Ica Wabich
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

FUHEIS — The pharaoh and his consort are holding court. The scribe is dutifully at hand with a scroll of parchment on which he will immortalise the sapient words of the holy ruler.

In a neatly tiled, spacious, well-lit square, guards unworriedly pace up and down in front of an official-looking building. They are dressed in the short white robes of the time and armed with lances.

Farther away, in the heat of the desert, clad in white and obviously belonging to a low caste, labourers trace the place of a future construction. It could be a pyramid, a castle or a less royal tomb. The sun is lengthening the shades of the primitive tools and of the obedient workers, an obvious sign that it is setting soon.

If ever you were fascinated by, or at least curious to know, how life was in ancient Egypt, Hussein Bikar, the venerable painter, art critic, musician and poet (born in Alexandria in 1913), who exhibits his works at the Balka's Art Gallery, will give you more than an insight into what you are looking for.

The much acclaimed humanist, who undertook painting the history of Abu Simbel, at Philae, the "eighth wonder" of the world, in 50 canvases, did that while work was under way to salvage the site before the rise of the Aswan Dam lake in 1970.

The photorealist gouaches faithfully reproduce the well-

known traits of the statuary Egyptian art of the antiquity: grandiose dimensions, static attitude and submission to the frontal law, which demands that the body be represented frontally and be strictly symmetrical along the vertical axis that passes through the nose, bridge, sternum and navel.

But the vivid colours with no intermediate shades, again typical of the art at the time, also manage to transpose the viewer into the world of millennia long buried under the dust of history and make one actually live with the characters depicted.

The works document life in ancient Egypt with such minute details that for a moment they make one forget that re-



One of Hussein Bikar's works on display at the Balka Art Gallery

construction of the mode of life at the time is only tentatively presumed and that the artist, after all, is our contemporary and not that of the Sphinx or Tutankhamen.

Building a pyramid, complete with scaffolding, myriads of slave workers and "supervisors" holding plans drawn on papyrus or watching a naval parade of slim row boats, watching Isis and Osiris (most likely) hold council or dancers entertain the pharaoh, are masterfully and convincingly executed images, fruit of research, imagination and love for the country's history.

More actual works recreate the British colonial times, when kakhi-diformed men and Victorian-dressed women

watch in awe the massive monuments, by now a landmark of the Egyptian touristic landscape.

A modern panorama by the sea is as interesting to watch, from a historical perspective, as the artist's ramblings in old pyramid crypts or his rendition of life in old times.

Tombs open for us, frescoes are as fresh as when they were first painted, hieroglyphs intricate and challenge human knowledge.

Pots are lined up awaiting ritual of some cult unknown to us or, less occult, holding dyes of different shades, awaiting for the cloth that would adorn the rich.

Headresses, sashes and collar ornaments are brightly coloured in turquoise, yellow, blue or brick red, contrasting with the sober, white long cloth of the poor or the chaste, white robes attiring graceful, young girls' bodies.

Dark slave girls serve upon the privileged or entertain them. Men, short-haired captives or locals with square cut, shoulder-long hair at the nape and straight fringe, are used for cutting stone, rowing boats, building or guarding palaces.

The artist manages to lead us into an enchanting world of diligence and superior intelligence, that of the fascinating Egypt of Khops and Nefertiti, of times of glory and immortality.

The exhibition, that opens today, Sept. 5, 1993, at a 6 p.m., will run until Sept. 25, daily.

A double exile for Bosnia's man in London

By Tom Porteous

LONDON — In the Bosnian Information Centre in Lebanon, a young Bosnian woman is trying to sort out her problem. Her Yugoslav passport has run out of pages for stamps. She is applying for a new, Bosnian passport. But the nearest embassy is in Paris. In order to go to Paris, she needs a new passport.

It is a familiar problem for many Bosnian refugees stranded throughout Europe, caught in the tangles of bureaucratic red tape.

Mamun Nahas, director of the London centre, is trying to find a solution. A letter is drafted to the British Home Office requesting a special travel document to allow the young woman to apply for a French visa so that she can travel to France and apply for a Bosnian passport.

No sooner is the problem resolved than the telephone rings. Some newcomer to England, another escapee from the horror of Bosnia Herzegovina, is asking how to apply for refugee status in Britain. Mr. Nahas goes through the list of papers required like a familiar litany. These are everyday events at the centre as Bosnians become the latest group to join the outcasts of this world.

Mr. Nahas is peculiarly well qualified to be midwife to the birth pangs of Bosnia's collective exile. As a Palestinian, he has lived in exile since 1947 when, as an infant, he was driven — along with his family — from his home village of Ramle during the war which saw the creation of the Jewish state of Israel. After growing up among the refugees of the West Bank, Mr. Nahas travelled to Sarajevo to continue his formal education. The year was 1966. Bosnia was a Republic to Tito's Yugoslavia and a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. Soon Sarajevo became Mr. Nahas' second home. He married a Bosnian and took Bosnian nationality. Having trained as an architect, he became a successful businessman with two import-export companies operating between Yugoslavia and the Middle East.

When the war in Bosnia Herzegovina broke out in April 1992, Mr. Nahas moved his wife and their three children to Britain as a temporary measure, a precaution. But then the Bosnian Serb army started to shell Sarajevo. Mr. Nahas realised that the stay in London would be more permanent: Bosnia was becoming another Palestine; he had been exiled for a second time.

Mr. Nahas draws a bitter parallel between the fate of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes and the fate of Bosnia's Muslims now being forcibly evicted by aggression and the threat of it from their homes and villages by Serbs and Croats in the process known as "ethnic cleansing."

As a Palestinian who had lived it all before, Mr. Nahas realised more quickly than other Bosnians what was happening. He knew that unless the Bosnians acted quickly on the ground and diplomatically, the territory they were losing bit by bit to Serbs and Croats would be lost for ever. This was one of the reasons why he lobbied — using high-level connections he had developed as a leading Sarajevo businessman — to set up an Information Centre in London. His other motivation was to help Bosnians



Mamun Nahas

was

Britain that the West is not doing enough," says Mr. Nahas, "but this feeling is not well organised in such a way as to have an effect on the policy of the government. We know that the British Prime Minister, John Major, has left this matter to his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, and Mr. Hurd is the only person who is dealing with the Bosnia crisis. But he does not have attitude, which he does not want to change, whatever Bosnia pays in human life."

According to Mr. Nahas, even the sympathy of western public opinion is not as strong as is sometimes claimed. People see the suffering on television and they may be moved by it. But this does not translate into a sense of political responsibility. It is almost as though simply by seeing what is happening on television the public feels it has done enough for Bosnia. Britain's best selling daily newspaper, The Sun, for example, has had a policy almost since the start of the war not to write about it — the rationale being that its readers just don't want to know.

"We are thankful for the efforts of some of the media here," says Mr. Nahas, referring to a recent week-long series of films on Bosnia by the independent TV station Channel 4 and to a campaign for military intervention in the independent newspaper.

"But maybe we need a campaign comparable to the anti-Vietnam war movement. These days if we ask people to come out for marches and demonstrations, only a few people show up."

But it is not only the West which is failing to provide enough help, says Mr. Nahas. He is also critical of the attitude of the governments of the Muslim World, where people are outraged at what is happening in Bosnia on religious grounds as well as on humanitarian and ethical grounds.

"The Muslim governments have the power to stop the war in Bosnia by pressing the West. Let me give you an example. The exports of Britain to the Middle East are about 60 per cent. All the Middle East has to do is say 'Stop we are not going to deal with you until you save Bosnia, help Bosnia.' They can do it. But everybody is watching and doing nothing."

Mr. Nahas rejects as Serbian propaganda the assertion that the

war in Bosnia is a religious war between Christianity and Islam. "The Bosnian government is a multi-ethnic government," he says. "Up until yesterday, Rado van Karadzic (the Bosnian Serb leader), Slobodan Milosevic (the Serbian president) and Franjo Tudjman (the Croatian president) were giving themselves the right to kill Bosnians by saying they were defending Christianity accusing the Bosnian government of trying to establish a Muslim state in the heart of Europe."

"But today what are they offering at the peace talks in Geneva. They are proposing to give the Muslims a Muslim state. How come? The Bosnian government is against this. We are against the partition of the country. We don't want to create a Muslim state, we want a multi-ethnic state. That what we are defending in Bosnia... So where is the truth? The truth is that Karadzic, Milosevic and Tudjman are lying to Europe and to all the world."

Mr. Nahas believes that it is

the reason why the West has been indecisive in acting over Bosnia because the different western powers are each pursuing different agendas and interests in the Balkans. These interests are, I say, primarily economic motives. In an explanation to would certainly raise a few eyebrows in Whitehall and the Qu'Orsay (French foreign ministry), Mr. Nahas says that the French and the British are unhappy about the extension German economic influence Central and Eastern Europe in the end of the cold war. A strong Serbia, which is traditional hostile to Germany, is seen by the French and the British as the check on German economic expansion, he explains. And Bosnia does not seem to be too great a price to pay.

But Mr. Nahas refuses to accept the demise of Bosnia. T West should not allow it because it violates principles of international law, he argues. And fail on the part of the United Nations, NATO, or the European Community to enforce these principles will set an evil precedent a make the world a more dangerous place to live.

"When people have nothing lose any more," says Mr. Nahas, "you are pushing them to anything. Europe is witness to the creation of another Palestine. It's the same story — but it's more dangerous. Palestine is far away, but Bosnia is right in the heart of Europe. The West is pushing things right to the extreme, the way it was done in Palestine. Who knows what effect it will be?"

"All the world is watching, nobody is doing anything," says Mr. Nahas again. "They are saying to the Bosnians, accept the reality. But what is the reality? It's genocide. The reality ethnic cleansing. All Europe accepting this in Bosnia. That's very dangerous because it will be repeated tomorrow in Tajikistan, in Kazakhstan, in all Russia. Will stop it from happening? A one who has some military power knows he can use this power, do whatever he wants and nobody will touch him."

"We know that there is no Bosnia. We know that it is in any strategic position. What about the new world order? What about morality?" — WC News Link.

'Pearl of Adriatic' shines again but tourists not enchanted

By Mark Heinrich

Reuter

DUBROVNIK, Croatia — The "pearl" of the Adriatic has regained some of its legendary lustre as the clouds of war have receded.

The wreckage wrought by bombardment has vanished and the bustle of old is making a valiant comeback in Dubrovnik, but the glitter of the walled Croatian renaissance town is not what it once was.

For although the last artillery shell to fall within the circular ramparts, jutting into turquoise seas seems a remote memory and Serb forces have pulled back from their positions, western tourists have not flocked back.

"This new appearance of normality is a bit deceptive. The streets may look crowded but the only tourists here used to live here or have relatives here," says Blasco Stankovic, a waiter at the elegant, Viennese-style, town cafe.

"There are maybe 50 real tourists in Dubrovnik, and I recognise many of them," said tour guide Vesna Gavulin.

Residents fear that tourism in Dubrovnik, like elsewhere on Croatia's scenic Dalmatian coast, will not revive without an end to ethnic wars in a small Serb enclave of Croatia near the Adriatic

and inland in Bosnia.

Dubrovnik, whose architectural treasures were battered by Serb siege guns in a 1991 assault that shocked many worldwide, has come a long way from the desolation of a year ago.

Then, in the aftermath of Croatia's independence war and with the Serbs still lobbing the odd long-range shell into the town to keep it on tenterhooks, every shop and restaurant was boarded up and rubble littered the cobbled pedestrian byways.

There were more pigeons and burnt out vehicles in the streets than people. Residents felt so abandoned that they wept with joy when a former local pianist prodigy came home from Paris to give a recital in the bomb-damaged, 14th-century Franciscan monastery.

The seeds for revival in Dubrovnik were planted when the Serbian-led Yugoslav Army (JNA) withdrew from the southern end of Croatia's coast last year under a U.N.-brokered disengagement agreement.

These were the last JNA forces to leave Croatia after a ceasefire ending its war of independence from Yugoslavia.

A few shells fired by JNA-backed Serb insurgents in southwest Bosnia 30 km inland hit outlying modern districts of Dubrovnik.

Visitors once again walk the heights of the 25-metre high walls, the immense medieval earthworks of which absorbed modern artillery without problem.

Architectural monuments like the baroque St. Blaise's Church, the 15th century Onofrio Fountain and the Franciscan Friary are boarded up awaiting repairs to war damage pending an International Monetary Fund grant due in September.

Aside from streets pitted by mortar bomb explosions, one or two gutted buildings and a number of facades obscured by scaffolding, it is hard to tell that Dubrovnik was under bombardment less than two years ago.

Yet the true damage runs deeper.

Only about five of Dubrovnik's 35 hotels, whose occupants swelled the town's population three or four fold before the war, are open.

They are occupied almost exclusively by U.N. peacekeeping officers and foreign journalists, like a year ago.

Retail and souvenir shops cry out for business.

These days the Stradun Bookstore sells school textbooks instead of tour guides.

"We spend most of the day sitting around doing nothing. We only have to refill the postcard stand once a week now. Before it was twice a day," said Shop assistant Nina Zitnik.

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This was one of the reasons why he lobbied — using high-level connections he had developed as a leading Sarajevo businessman — to set up an Information Centre in London. His other motivation was to help Bosnians

against the Sarajevo government once this happened.

And this is one important reason why the British government has stopped short of sending troops on a combat mission to halt Bosnian Serb advances.

"There is a strong feeling in

'Pork police' attack shops in name of Judaism

By Sarah Helm

"The Nazis used to measure your skull to tell if you were a Jew or not," says Uri Sernof, laying out "illicit" produce on his chopping-board, as the door is unlocked to let another customer into this small store thick with the smell of spicy pig meat. There is little light. Net curtains obscure the clandestine trade and bars protect against intruders.

"We are against this business of defining who is a Jew. It is primitive. They think if we sell pork today the next day we will be selling narcotics. It's brainwashing."

Mr. Sernof is the latest victim in the "pork-war" of Ashdod being fought in the shabby shopping malls of this Mediterranean resort town where in the past two years the population has swollen by a third with the arrival of 35,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union. They care little for Jewish ritual, but have been brought to live cheek-by-jowl with Jews of largely Middle Eastern origin, many of whom are traditional in their practices.

The clash of cultures has turned violent in recent weeks, as the religious have used force to end what they see as one of the worst violations of Judaism:

shops closed down. "The Russians have lost their Judaism. They have not immigrated to the U.S. or England. They have come to Israel and must observe our traditions."

The problems of "absorption" — as Israel terms the process of assimilating new immigrants — continues to confound Israel's political leaders. They hailed the arrival of the latest wave of Jews from the former Soviet republics as a chance to strengthen the Jewish state but have failed so far to make the new immigrants feel welcome or valued. Stories of cultural alienation and hardship among the new arrivals increase by the day, as do the accusations by the Russians of discrimination against them by the earlier wave of immigrants.

In Ashdod all the problems are writ large. Until the new immigrants began to arrive, the town was a Sephardi-dominated community, of largely Moroccan and Yemenite Jews, who arrived in the early 1950s.

Pork sale is not illegal in Israel,

Southern African ministers trim development plans

SWABANE (R) — The 10-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) agreed at an annual meeting in Swaziland Friday to slash its development programme by 30 per cent.

SADC Executive Secretary Simba Makoni said the grouping was unable to implement the whole programme.

Mr. Makoni told reporters the SADC's council of ministers decided to cut the number of projects from well over 500, with a total budget of \$8.9 billion, to 467.

"We did not have the capacity to implement such a big programme," he said. "The projects we cut were those identified as lacking regional relevance."

The SADC links white-ruled South Africa's immediate and near neighbours in an alliance originally intended to counter Pretoria's economic domination of the region. It now focuses on regional development.

Mr. Makoni said the ministers received a progress report from a special committee set up to find ways of rationalising the SADC's efforts with those of the 18-state Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), a rival economic coordinating alliance.

The two groups have similar goals of economic integration and most members of SADC are also members of the PTA, which has traditionally received the smaller share of foreign development funding.

"There was no discussion of a merger," Mr. Makoni said in answer to a question.

He said SADC heads of state were expected at a summit Sunday to ratify unanimously a treaty drawn up in Windhoek a year ago on integrating the economies of the region.

Swiss economy over the worst, minister says

BERNE (R) — Switzerland is now over the worst of the recession and the country's economy is set to recover, a government minister said Friday.

"Overall, there is much to support the view that the recession in the Swiss economy has bottomed out," Economic Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz said in a statement.

Most leading economic forecasters see the Swiss economy shrinking in 1993 for the third year in succession. But the economy is expected to pick up slightly from next year.

Mr. Delamuraz noted that inflation had fallen sharply, while easier central bank monetary policy had brought money and capital market interest rates to substantially lower levels.

Swiss inflation stood at 3.4 per cent in July, compared with a peak at 6.6 per cent in summer 1991. Benchmark three-month Swiss franc interest rates have, unblended, to levels around 4.5 per cent from over nine per cent last over a year ago.

Forte Hotels senior executive to tour Middle East

Mr. Randolph Guthrie, managing director for Forte Grand Hotels worldwide, will shortly begin a nine-day tour of the Middle East. The tour will include visits to Forte Hotels properties in Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain and the UAE. This is Mr. Guthrie's first visit to the region since his appointment as managing director of Forte Grand.

Forte Hotels is part of the Forte Group which employs up to 100,000 people worldwide, operates in 41 countries with 850 hotels, over 1,000 restaurants and 4,500 catering contracts. It also provides in-flight catering for 150 airlines.

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

Iraq says doors open for Turkish traders

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq urged Turkish traders Saturday to circumvent U.N. trade sanctions and promised them preferential treatment for doing business with Baghdad.

"The borders are open in front of them (Turkish traders) to export their products to Iraq. There are no obstacles on our side," Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh was quoted as saying in an Iraqi News Agency (INA) report from Istanbul.

Mr. Saleh is on a visit to Turkey attending an economic and trade session by ministers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Judging by its geographic position and the neighbouring relations between the peoples of the two countries, Turkey will have an ample share in economic and commercial dealings with Iraq when the embargo is removed," Mr. Saleh said in remarks carried by Iraqi newspapers.

Turkey was Iraq's biggest trading partner before the Gulf war. Trade fees from an oil pipeline running through Turkey brought Ankara as much as \$700,000 a month.

The trade ended when Iraq invaded Kuwait and was driven out by U.S.-led allies. The United Nations imposed sweeping sanctions, including an embargo on most trade.

The Swiss jobless total is at a post-World War II high. There were 165,290 registered jobless in Switzerland at the end of July, an unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent.

Ankara has recently complained to the United States that sanctions against Iraq are hurting its own economy and asked the Security Council to review them.

Mr. Saleh said Baghdad welcomed statements by Turkish officials "demanding a lifting of the embargo".

"What is needed is the adoption of practical steps to proceed ahead with measures to bolster commercial and economic cooperation between Iraq and Turkey," he said.

"Turkish companies and businessmen are welcome in Iraq," he added.

Developing nations seek cash to preserve forests

NEW DELHI (R) — Developing countries Friday called for more cash to save the world's forests, and urged rich nations to give generously.

In a resolution adopted at the end of a three-day conference in New Delhi, they appealed to the developed world to "assist and meet the incremental costs incurred to implement sustainable development."

The vaguely-worded document, called the Delhi Declaration, listed a number of vital steps to be taken. These include increasing the world's forested area, educating and involving local people in conservation, and finding alternative jobs for those who rely on the forests for their livelihood.

Pressure of population in many countries has led to encroachment into forests, where subsistence farmers often extend their crop area illegally by felling trees. Poor countries say consumption of timber and other products in the rich world is also directly responsible for depleting the forests, and want industrialised nations to dig deep into their pockets to save them.

The declaration said the Third World needed immediate access to cash and new technology so their economic development, vital to raise living standards for millions of poor people, would be environmentally sound.

Delegates from 70 Asian, African and Latin American countries, including more than 30 forestry ministers, attended the three-day conference of the forum for developing countries.

"This is just a pity way to ask for more funds," said one Indian official, who asked not to be identified.

"Japan made a much appreci-

ated effort," said Pierre Vigier, European Commission administrator. "It is a 25-hour agreement" concluded after two days and one night of uninterrupted negotiations between EC officials and delegations from the Japan's ministry of international trade and industry, he told reporters.

During the meeting developing countries bitterly criticised what they said were double standards by the industrialised nations, which they accused of dictating the terms for conservation.

"They push for restrictive and punitive action against deforestation in tropical countries without seeking to tackle the basic problems of poverty and underdevelopment," Malaysian delegate Lim Keng Yaik said.

But Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said there was no place for acrimony in the environmental debate.

"I think we have left that stage behind where we are trying to apportion blame — the developed against the developing, the developing against the developed," he said in a speech.

India's Environment Minister Kamal Nath said developing countries would press for a separate United Nations body to tackle forestry problems.

"We would like a special mechanism within the United Nations to be formed with the sole purpose of saving the world's forests," he told a news conference.

He said forestry was currently covered by the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation as an "appendage to agriculture."

Indian officials said a separate forestry agency would mean more cash for forestry projects in poor countries.

"This is just a pity way to ask for more funds," said one Indian official, who asked not to be identified.

"Japan made a much appreci-

Tokyo accepts 18.5 per cent cut in automobile exports to Europe

units in 1992), 38,800 to Italy (36,478 in 1992), 20,300 to Spain (30,800 in 1992), 39,000 to Portugal (36,465 in 1992) and 202,800 to Britain (168,575 last year).

Because automobile sales are down in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal and Japan's existing levels are constant, Japanese car makers will in effect expand their market share in these countries.

The jump in exports to Britain is because the car market is healthy there.

The Japanese will mainly be out in the other European Community members, but no figures were provided for these countries. Observers said German automakers would probably be celebrating, as they stand to gain so much.

One EC official close to the negotiations said the agreed figure was close to what the European side was seeking at the talks, which could explain some negative Japanese reaction.

"It is a bad result for the Japanese automobile industry," said Tatsuro Toyota, president of Japan's number one carmaker Toyota. "I regret the accord."

Nissan President Yutaka Kume, and also head of Japanese Automobile Makers Association, was conciliatory, saying Japan "had no choice but to accept" the agreement because of the sick state of the European market.

Sudanese money supply rising sharply

KHARTOUM (R) — Money supply in Sudan will increase sharply in the financial year 1993/4, with the central bank printing about as much money as is now in circulation.

The deputy general manager of the Bank of Sudan (central bank), Mukhtar Saeed, said the bank would print notes with a face value of \$0 billion pounds (about \$490 million at the current rate) in the financial year which started July 1.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL DESTINIES: End this week by concentrating upon home affairs of importance and making the arrangements that will please all concerned. Increase your prestige with neighbours in your community. Go along with the past year.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A very good day to wind up whatever conversations and meetings you have had with partners and associates so you and they understand one another.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now see the best ways and means by which you will be able to bring more charm and efficiency to your surroundings so lose no time in doing so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your day to have a ball, get out with congenial companions to those interests and entertainments at which you are and they can be happiest.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your time to be home with members of your family and enjoying the warmth and attractiveness of your own dwelling, doing things you like most.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to get off alone as much as possible with the one you love the most for you can have a very understanding and romantic time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well those friends and acquaintances with whom you feel most at harmony and arrange times and places to see, enjoy their society.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Even though today is Sunday, today is your oyster in the world of outside activity so make plans to things in public that can add to your good will and name.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Lots of interesting new outlets await your acceptance both in publications, personalities and in taking some trip to an interesting place.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be with your close attachment as much as possible today and join forces in an undertaking which both of you are thoroughly enamored with.

VENUS: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to consider.

ACROSS	P	D	E	B	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 False god	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5 British weight	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
14 Lab burner	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
15 — firma	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
18 Nelmen Nastase	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
17 Dating game	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
20 Dalmatian dogs	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
21 Deli appliances	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
22 Kansas town	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
23 Remark to trolley	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
24 Heathens	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
25 Hair fluff	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
26 — expert	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
27 Open-mouthed	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
28 Identical	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
29 Asian land	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
30 Belmont Stakes, s.p.	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
31 French head	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
32 Dog's old age	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
33 Sesame	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
34 Affirmative	35	36	37	38	39	4							

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1993 7

Some 23,000 Taiwan officials made to declare wealth

TAIPEI (AFP) — Some 23,000 Taiwan officials, including the state leader, have begun declaring their personal wealth as part of the island's effort to stamp out corruption, officials said.

Top leaders, including President Lee Teng-Hui, Premier Lien Chan and judiciary head Lin Yang-Kang, reported their assets to the Control Yuan, the government's watchdog, as required by a new law, the Yuan officials said.

Under the Sunshine Law, enacted in July by parliament to maintain honesty in government, all officials above section chief level, their spouses and dependents have until the end of October to declare their assets.

Some 23,000 such officials and around 50,000 spouses and dependents are subject to the law, the officials said, adding the public could ask to check the reports beginning Oct. 16. Under the law, such requests cannot be rejected.

Those who fail to report their assets each year will be fined up to 300,000 Taiwan dollars (\$11,320).

Premier Lien Chan is believed to be the wealthiest cabinet chief in Taiwan's history, with a fortune estimated at around \$300 million.

Increasing numbers of corruption cases involving officials prompted members of parliament to enact the law, which also requires top officials to hand over their properties and shares to authorized trust companies for management.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
BANKS BANK CENTRES BANKS - INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZED MARKET STOCK PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/09/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
ABRA BANK	29,770	29,000	27,000	165,500	165,500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,173	8,700	5,750	5,780	5,780
CAIRO AGRICULTURAL BANK	800	39,500	40,000	40,200	40,200
STATE OF JORDAN	1,020	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	8,016	1,980	1,950	1,950	1,950
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,380	3,970	3,950	3,950	3,950
JORDAN KUWAITI BANK	70,235	2,890	2,880	2,880	2,880
ABRA JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	31,953	4,010	4,070	4,070	4,070
ABRA JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	1,040	4,280	4,200	4,200	4,200
BEST BANK SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12,768	4,700	4,650	4,650	4,650
ABRA JORDAN COOPERATION/JORDAN	415	4,200	4,150	4,150	4,150
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	38,971	2,280	2,270	2,220	2,220
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	30,003	3,740	3,720	3,750	3,750
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	2,793	1,410	1,460	1,470	1,470
ABRA LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	9,426	2,800	2,850	2,850	2,850
ABRA LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	318,912	3,060	2,010	2,000	2,000
JORDAN DISTRICTS BANK	11,320	3,200	3,150	3,150	3,150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT	1,777	4,480	4,400	4,400	4,400
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	85,799	0,810	0,820	0,830	0,830
JORDAN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8,657	3,800	3,750	3,750	3,750
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	12,605	3,740	3,750	3,750	3,750
MACHINERY EQUIP. IMPORT & EXPORT	86,625	8,580	8,640	8,630	8,630
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL	18,020	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORS HOTELS	37,025	21,800	22,700	22,700	22,700
ABRA LITER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	40,308	2,150	3,150	3,150	3,150
ABRA LITER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	22,896	3,810	3,850	3,850	3,850
ABRA LITER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	128,129	2,760	3,730	3,730	3,730
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3,665	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,400
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,121	3,200	3,150	3,150	3,150
WALCO INDUSTRIES	1,841	2,580	3,630	3,630	3,630
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	35,373	6,770	8,600	8,650	8,650
THE JORDAN MOBILE TELECOM	1,490	1,800	1,780	1,780	1,780
ABRA PAPER CONVERGING & TRADING	2,565	8,580	8,640	8,670	8,670
JORDAN MEDICAL COMMUNICATION	21,583	7,500	7,500	7,490	7,490
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	25,659	3,800	3,750	3,760	3,760
JORDAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES	1,660	4,350	4,150	4,150	4,150
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	852	2,700	2,840	2,840	2,840
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	59,976	15,700	14,950	14,970	14,970
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
DAE AL DINA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2,570	2,510	2,000	9,120	9,120
ABRA INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,490	1,800	1,780	1,780	1,780
ABRA INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,490	1,800	1,780	1,780	1,780
ABRA PAPER CONVERGING & TRADING	1,490	1,800	1,780	1,780	1,780
JORDAN MEDICAL COMMUNICATION	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,565	3,700	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES	1,660	3,600	3,550	3,550	3,550
UNIVERSITY INDUSTRIES S. JORDAN/INCO	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
UNIVERSITY INDUSTRIES S. JORDAN/INCO	6,653	8,100	8,150	8,050	8,050
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	22,124	3,200	3,150	3,150	3,150
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	22,124	3,200	3,150	3,150	3,150
JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	3,497	1,580	1,540	1,550	1,550
JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	51,396	8,380	8,200	8,200	8,200
Grand Total		1,585,521			

Financial Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Markets Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Current	New York Close
Sterling Pound	1.5025
Deutsche Mark	1.6450
Swiss Franc	1.4450
French Franc	5.7885
Japanese Yen	105.89
European Currency Unit	1.1498*
1% per 100	European Openings in 100 U.S. Dollars
Interest Rates	Date: 3/9/1993

Interest Rates	
Currency	1 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.00
Sterling Pound	5.81
Deutsche Mark	6.47
Swiss Franc	4.56
French Franc	7.75
Japanese Yen	3.00
European Currency Unit	7.87
Interest rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.	

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 4/9/1993

Currency		Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900	
Sterling Pound	1.0522	1.0575	
Deutsche Mark	0.4248	0.4269	
Swiss Franc	0.4828	0.4852	
French Franc	0.1209	0.1215	
Japanese Yen	0.6567	0.6600	
Dutch Guilder	0.3786	0.3805	
Swedish Krona	0.0860	0.0864	
Italian Lira	0.0433	0.0435	
Belgian Franc	0.01953	0.01963	
For 100			

Other Currencies Date: 4/9/1993

Currency		Bid	Offer
Lebanese Lira	1.7950	1.8250	
Saudi Riyal	0.039315	0.040350	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2600	2.3400	
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1875	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300	
Omni Riyal	1.7500	1.8000	
LAE Dirham	0.1855	0.1875	
Greek Drachma	0.2900	0.3350	
Cypriot Pound	1.3415	1.3850	
For 100			

Merrill Lynch weekly currency report

By Naser T. Nabulsi

Overview

Fundamental view: Concerns about the strength of the U.S. expansion and the Bundesbank

U.S. Open

Ivanisevic latest seed to tumble out

NEW YORK (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic became the seventh men's seed to fall in the first two rounds of the U.S. Open Friday when he bowed out in straight sets to clay court specialist Carlos Costa.

The 11th-seeded Croatian let slip a 5-0 lead in the third-set tie-breaker and the surprised Spaniard won the match 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) 7-6 (7/5).

"If I can't win after being five-nothing in a tie-break, I don't know what I can win anymore," a disconsolate Ivanisevic said.

"I served really bad. When I need, I didn't put one first serve in. I played pretty bad."

Despite his baseliner's background, Costa managed some stylish play at the net, and he served up just as many aces as Ivanisevic — 16 in all.

The loss of seven of the men's seeds in the first two rounds was a U.S. Open record. The previous record was six set in 1976 and equalled in 1982.

The others to fall were two times defending champion Stefan Edberg, the third seed, who lost in the second round, and first-round casualties Sergi Bruguera (5), Michael Stich (6), Petr Korda (9), Ivan Lendl (13) and Andre Agassi (16).

However, some other stars continued to advance with almost stale ease despite the stifling humidity and heat at the National Tennis Centre at Flushing Meadow.

Swedish tennis player Mats Wilander, the 1988 U.S. Open champion who played his last Grand Slam in 1991, defeated compatriot Mikael Pernfors in five sets to reach the third round of the U.S. Open Saturday.

Wilander, who retired from full time tennis in '91 and entered the Open on a wild card, defeated Pernfors 7-6 (7/6), 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Their match went on court about 10:30 p.m. Friday, and four hours later about a thousand fans were still there for the end.

The finishing time of 2:25 in the morning was one of the latest in tournament history for a singles match.

Most were rooting for Wilander, whose ranking has plummeted to 558 in the world.

Pernfors, ranked 37th, was visibly hurting with leg cramps in the fourth-set tie-breaker, but



Gabriela Sabatini watches the ball through her racket (AFP photo)

seemed to shrug them off in the fifth.

Wilander will meet 11th-Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the third round.

World number-one Jim Courier hammered compatriot qualifier Michael Joyce 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to line up a third-round clash with another American, Malivoi Washington.

Fourth-seeded German Boris Becker, playing just one day after he completed a rain-delayed first-round five-setter, beat Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

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Pernfors, ranked 37th, was visibly hurting with leg cramps in the fourth-set tie-breaker, but

he said, "I was tired, but I think that speaks well for my game rights now."

He said the difference between his straight-set win over Hlasek and his five-set struggle against Andrei Cherkasov, was an improved serve.

As the top-seed, Courier is no

doubt the prime target in the men's draw, but he was unperceived by the state of upsets.

"It is not that shocking, really," he said. "We are very deep in men's tennis. Upsets are going to happen. It doesn't change anything for me."

"After this round, there will still be 32 good players left."

Eighth-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev also survived, winning his second-round match with American Richey Renberg.

During Thursday's matches, jets from Laguardia zoomed over the

National Tennis Centre, distracting a number of players, including

Navratilova.

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Navratilova.

Fin the past, Mayor David N. Dinkins, a tennis buff, has arranged with Laguardia to reroute planes during the Open. No one in the

mayor's office could say whether a similar request had been made.

Graf was glad to skip a match in the heat and humidity, though she admitted that three days without a match, from Wednesday to Sunday, might take away her edge for her fourth-round clash against dangerous French 13th seed Mary Pierce.

Pierce beat big-serving Breed Schultz of the Netherlands 7-6 (7/3).

Fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez also advanced with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Nicolo Muns-Jagerman of the Netherlands and number-eight Jan Novotna heat Italian Laura Golarsa 6-4, 6-3.

Injuries, upsets, illnesses take toll at U.S. Open

As the U.S. Open headed into the holiday weekend, it seemed to be operating under siege conditions.

Upsets, injuries and illnesses took their toll on the men's and women's draws. Players were complaining about the scheduling a well as the heat and humidity of the second hottest summer in New York City history. Planes from nearby Laguardia Airport were once again zooming overhead.

Welcome to the National Tennis Centres.

Judit Wiesner became the eighth player struck down by the Open's injury-illness virus when she pulled out of her scheduled match with No. 1 Steffi Graf Friday because of an upper respiratory infection.

Still in the singles competition but hurting was Manuela Maleeva Fragniere, who withdrew from a women's doubles match when she suffered a torn tendon in her left pinky. She planned to go ahead with a singles match against Sabine Hack later Friday.

Other casualties were Carl-Uwe Steibl and Ivan Lendl, both brought down by knee injuries, Mary Joe Fernandez, Grant Staffor and Christian Berstom, who all experienced stomach cramps, Kenn Thorne, who had leg cramps, and Jeff Tarango, who hurt his ankle. A record-holding half dozen seeded players, including Jérôme Capriati and Andre Agassi, were eliminated in the first round. Two time winner Stefan Edberg became just the third defending champ in the Open era to go out in the second round.

Top-seeded Jim Courier breezed to a straight-set victory i puncturing heat and humidity and then talked about the difficulties at the Open.

"The locker rooms are hot," he said. "The lounge is very crowded and there really is no place for us to go and hide."

Some of those still around were feeling grumpy about the scheduling, especially Boris Becker. Because of the strange schedule and two rain delays, the fourth-seeded Becker did not complete his first round match until Thursday night. That meant to win the tournament, Becker would have to play and win seven matches in 11 days, a tall order.

Becker had requested an early start but was not scheduled to start the tournament until Wednesday, a rainout pushed him back another day.

Martina Navratilova also wondered about sitting around. She was her opening match Monday afternoon and did not play again until Thursday night. "Is there a tournament here?" she said. "I've been hitting in Central Park, bidding time."

During Thursday's matches, jets from Laguardia zoomed over the National Tennis Centre, distracting a number of players, including

Navratilova.

Fin the past, Mayor David N. Dinkins, a tennis buff, has arranged with Laguardia to reroute planes during the Open. No one in the

mayor's office could say whether a similar request had been made.

Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov poses between knights at a press conference in preparation for the World Chess Championship starting Sept. 7 (AFP photo)

Kasparov to make first move in World Chess Championship

LONDON (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov won the right to make the first move in his championship match against Nigel Short at a ceremony Friday featuring Russian dolls, giant chess knights and out-of-tune trumpets.

Unlike the low-key draws in professional soccer and tennis, "the drawing of the colours" for the Time World Chess Championship climaxed a champagne lunch for 150 invited guests at one of London's most fashionable restaurants.

In chess, only two colours count — black and white.

Even the hors d'oeuvres were black and white, laid out in the pattern of a chess board. Several chess experts were seen making chess moves with their edible squares before popping them in the mouth.

There was a two-stage draw to determine who would play with the white pieces and who with the black when the 21-game match opens Tuesday at London's Savoy Theatre under the auspices of the newly formed Professional Chess Association.

"It is generally believed that the player with the white pieces has a significant advantage in a chess game played at this level of competition," explained New York attorney Robert E. Rice, the association's commissioner.

The first draw was to determine which player would automatically make the final draw for the colours.

As world champion, Kasparov was given the opportunity to choose between two identical Russian dolls, carried in a silver tray to a lond, somewhat discordant fanfare by royal air force trumpeters.

One doll concealed a smaller wooden doll with a caricature of Kasparov. The other had a similar doll bearing short's caricature.

"This sounds like you," Kasparov whined to his British challenger as he shook one of the giant red dolls.

Marseille hearing begins

PARIS (R) — The French Soccer League's (FNL) disciplinary committee began its lengthy hearing Saturday into Marseille's alleged match-fixing with Valenciennes.

Defender Jacques Glassmann, who accused the European Champions of rigging a domestic league match against his side last May, was the first to arrive at the FNL's Paris offices.

He was followed by his former teammates Christophe Robert former coach Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydile did not appear.

Robert, Buruchaga, Eydile and former Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, who was expected this afternoon, are all under investigation for bribery.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PICK YOUR LINE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 10 5 2
♦ K 8 3
♦ J 7 4 2
♦ K 8 5

WEST EAST
♦ J 9 8 4
♦ 10 8 4
♦ A K 10 5
♦ 10 8 4 3
♦ Q 9 2

SOUTH
♦ A K 8 7 3
♦ A Q J 9
♦ Q 9
♦ A 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass

3 NT Pass

4 NT Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

To fully appreciate this deal, cover the East-West cards and decide how you would play this hand at rubber bridge. Would you do anything different in a pairs event?

The auction is simple enough.

Once North can respond, South has

enough to insist on game — it's sim-

ply a question of where the hand

should be played. Three no trump by South on the third round of the auction, however, would have been a better choice. Incidentally, note

North's response of one no trump on a balanced minimum with three-card spade support. We heartily endorse this choice.

West starts the defense by taking two high diamonds, then shifting to the jack of clubs. You win in hand and cash the king of spades, on which West drops the jack. How do you continue?

Since you have no other losers

except for trump, you should take a

safe play to ensure no more than

one trump loser. You can accom-

plish that by leading a low spade

toward the ten: If West has the

queen as well, all you have given up

is an overtrick.

At the cards lie, West discards

and East captures the ten with the

queen. You can win any return on

the table and take the return

for the nine of spades to land

your game.

How would you tackle the hand if

you were playing duplicate? Exactly

the same way! The Principle of Re-

stricted Choice states that West's

jack is more likely to be a singleton

than from specifically queen-jack

doubleton. Indeed, Q is only one of

four possible doubleton combina-

tions West could hold which in-

cludes the knave.

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NY GIRL**
CONCORD 2
LAST ACTION HERO
SHOWS: 12:

Bosnia leader says talks may resume soon; Muslims, Croats clash

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said on Saturday peace talks could resume later this month, as fighting raged on between Muslim and Croat forces in central and southern Bosnia.

"I believe the talks will continue in the week after next," Mr. Izetbegovic told a news conference in Istanbul.

Peace talks in Geneva aimed at ending the Bosnia civil war broke down last Wednesday after Mr. Izetbegovic asked for 34 per cent of Bosnian territory for a rump Muslim state, rather than the 30 per cent awarded under the proposed peace plan.

Bosnian Croat and Serb leaders have said the Bosnian government's demands are unacceptable. Mr. Izetbegovic plans to seek support from U.N. Security Council members on Tuesday in New York.

U.N. chief Boutros Ghali has urged Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders to resume peace talks before fighting escalates.

U.N. officials on Saturday reported heavy fighting between Muslim and Croat soldiers in the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf.

The fighting closed the major aid route into central Bosnia Friday, and British peacekeepers in the area counted 194 artillery rounds fired on Friday.

Suspects tell Egyptian court of torture in jail

HAKKSTAP, Egypt (AP) — Alleged Muslim extremists complained at the opening of their military trial Saturday that they had been subjected to constant torture in prison and deprived of visits from their families.

And their lawyers complained that they were not informed of the charges or even the defendants' names until the trial opened.

The 66 defendants, including 17 at large, are the second group among more than 800 alleged extremists arrested this year for allegedly rebuilding Jihad, the organisation that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The group's accused leader, Ismail Suleiman, burst into tears as he told the court how interrogators applied electric shocks to his genitals, threatened to rape his wife and suspended him by his ankles for hours to force him to confess.

He took off his white robe to show the judges evidence of lashes from a whip across his back.

The chief judge, Major General Hamed Hassan, ordered the release from custody for health reasons of a defendant, crippled

by polio, who claimed he was tortured.

Sami Salama, who walked from the defendants' cage to the bench with the help of two canes, told Gen. Hassan he had nothing to do with the case. He said police arrested him for building a house without a license. At the police station, he said, police accused him of belonging to an illegal group and ordered him to implicate others.

All the defendants face that charge and others, including planning to overthrow the government, possession of arms and explosives, terrorism and forgery of official documents. All could be sentenced to death under an anti-terrorism law passed in July 1992.

As trucks carrying the defendants approached the military camp 20 kilometres east of Cairo where the trial is held, they started shouting slogans calling for Islamic law in Egypt and waving copies of the Koran.

In the courtroom, where they were held in black iron cages, they chanted as the officers hearing their trial entered: "Army beware of the day of judgment and apply the law of God."

King extends total support for agreement

(Continued from page 1)

He said other Arab parties to the talks will also address problems as they relate to them and "hoped" that the level of coordination among them will improve.

King Hussein said Jordan did not ratify a draft agenda for its negotiations with Israel because it was awaiting progress on the Palestinian track. He emphasised the agenda was not a peace agreement but a detailing of the issues that needed to be discussed in the context of lasting regional peace.

He said when Jordan was satisfied with progress on the Palestinian track, "we will move towards our own responsibilities, towards ourselves and future."

Asked if the PLO-Israeli accord warranted any change in the agenda, the King said: "I don't think there will be much that requires changing. The subjects are well-known and obviously they will be discussed at the appropriate time."

"I have no worry or concern that the moment is that of embarking on a very serious attempt to achieve comprehensive peace in the area... (and end) a conflict which has lasted for too long."

Asked if Jordan would close the bridges between the two banks to prevent a possible Palestinian exodus from the West Bank and Gaza into Jordan, King Hussein said there is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will never be a reason for that."

He said the situation of the refugees would be addressed rapidly and Jordan will be invited to these discussions.

"Any solution will have to address the rights of all," the King said, adding that the accord might provide an opportunity for the repatriation of refugees.

Jordanian officials were this week quoted as saying that 246,000 Palestinian refugees settled in Jordan in 1967, and 57,000 others came to Jordan in 1968 and remained here after Israel refused to allow them back into the occupied territories.

Prosecution seeks death in Bush murder plot case

KUWAIT (AP) — The prosecution on Saturday demanded the death sentence for 11 Iraqis and a Kuwaiti charged in a plot to assassinate former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April.

It sought 10 years imprisonment for the other two defendants, both Kuwaitis. They were not charged in the plot itself but were accused of trying to hide the other defendants.

Lawyers said the state security court was expected to pronounce sentences in two weeks.

The 14 men were arrested in April, most of them just one day before Mr. Bush "arrived" in Kuwait where he is regarded as a hero for forcing the 33-nation coalition that ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate in the 1991 Gulf war.

Twelve of the defendants pleaded innocent when the trial opened June 5. Two Iraqi defendants pleaded guilty, but one of them later said he was innocent.

President Bill Clinton accused Iraq of hatching the plot and ordered an American missile attack on an Iraqi intelligence headquarters complex in Baghdad in retaliation on June 27. Iraq has denied involvement.

Wali Al Ghazali, an Iraqi

nurse, told the court when he

pleaded guilty June 5 that two

Iraqi intelligence agents gave him an explosives-packed belt and

showed him how to blow himself

up if he were caught or if the

car-bomb failed.

Mohammad Al Yassia, the

court-appointed lawyer defending Raad Al Assadi, the other Iraqi who initially pleaded guilty before asserting he was innocent

told the court Saturday there was

no evidence his client was involved in the plot.

Mr. Yassia said Mr. Assadi

accepted 10 pieces of explosive

from Iraqi intelligence agents

"because he could not refuse as

Iraq is a police state."

Mr. Ghazali said he does not have

any political affiliation with the

PLO or any other group.

"Details have to be worked out

but Jerusalem is obviously a very

important element in the whole

equation," the King said.

King Hussein told reporters

that it was premature to discuss

the nature of future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, which

will be agreed upon when the

Palestinians are free to choose what they want.

In response to a question about

possible confederation between

Jordan and a Palestinian entity,

the King said confederation can

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However, the King said that

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